

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheets include changes to FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9 which have been amended to include descriptive text for the “Drive Circuit” and Evaluation Circuit”.

## **REMARKS**

### **Claim Status**

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claim 7 contains allowable subjected matter. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. The Drawings have been amended. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 16 have been amended. Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been added. Support for the amendment to independent claim 1 may be found at pg. 6, paragraph [0021] of the originally filed specification and FIG. 6 of the drawings. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

### **Overview of the Office Action**

The Office Action Summary (Form PTOL-326) fails to provide a check mark to indicate that the formal drawings filed on June 8, 2004 were objected to by the Examiner. However, the Office Action (pg. 2) indicates that the drawings were objected to for failure to provide descriptive text in Figs. 1, 2, 6 and 9. For purposes of this Response, Applicants have amended the drawings based on the objection recited at pg. 2 of the Office Action. Withdrawal of this objection is in order.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been objected to based on certain informalities. Withdrawal of this objection is requested in view of the amendments to the Abstract shown above.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is in order, as explained below.

Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,218,790 (“*Jansa*”), while dependent claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

as unpatentable over *Jansa*. In addition, dependent claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Jansa* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,641,294 (“*Lefebvre*”).

Applicants note paragraph 11 of the Office Action does not specifically recite that claims 14 and 15 are unpatentable over the combination of *Jansa* and *Lefebvre*. However, *Lefebvre* has been cited by the Examiner to reject claims 14 and 15. Accordingly, Applicants will address the rejection of these claims based on the combination of *Jansa* and *Lefebvre*.

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner’s rejections and the comments provided in support thereof. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that all claims presented for examination in the present application are patentable over the cited references.

#### **Amendments Addressing Section 112 Issues and Formalities**

The Drawings have been objected to based on the failure to include descriptive text in FIGS. 1, 2, 6 and 9. According to the Examiner, “in figures 1-2, 6, and 9, the blocks should be labeled, e.g., block 2 in figure 1 should be labeled ---DRIVE CIRCUIT---; block 70 should be ---EVALUATION CIRCUIT---”. In response to these objections, Applicants have amended FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9 in a manner which is self-explanatory. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is appropriate.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract because it includes the words “means” and “said”. In response to this objection, Applicants have amended the Abstract in a manner which is self-explanatory. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is appropriate.

The Examiner has stated, the “application is a direct translation from a foreign application”, and has required Applicants to make appropriate changes to the language in order to bring it into conformance with proper idiomatic English. However, Applicants have reviewed the Specification

in its entirety, and respectfully assert the Specification is in idiomatic English. Consequently, no amendments to the specification have been made.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner has stated in “Claim 1, the recitation ‘...having a lead (3), via which electronic circuit elements (6) of the circuit arrangement, in particular LED components...’ renders the claim unclear”. In addition, the Examiner has stated, “the recitation ‘or in a comparable manner’” in claims 11 and 16 renders these claims indefinite. In response to these rejections, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 16 in a manner which is self-explanatory. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is appropriate.

#### **Summary of the Subject Matter Disclosed in the Specification**

The following descriptive details are based on the specification. They are provided only for the convenience of the Examiner as part of the discussion presented herein, and are not intended to argue limitations which are unclaimed.

The claimed invention is directed to an electronic circuit arrangement, for example, an LED circuit arrangement, having a lead via which electronic circuit elements of the circuit arrangement, for example LED components, can be driven by a drive circuit. In accordance with the claimed invention, the lead has a plurality of coding conductors which carry a code by means of a combination of electrically interrupted and electrically continuous coding conductors, wherein the code gives an indication of specific properties of the circuit arrangement and the code can be detected by means of an evaluation circuit that is integrated in the circuit arrangement (see pg. 3, paragraph [0011] of the originally filed specification).

### **Descriptive Summary of the Prior Art**

*Jansa* discloses a circuit diagram of a light-emitting diode 1 that is connected by means of a connection element 2 to a control element 18 in the form of a logic circuit (see col. 4 lines 23-26).

*Lefebvre* discloses a lighting assembly having an elongated housing adapted to be mounted in a vehicle interior and a plurality of electrical terminals for connection to a source of electricity (see col. 1, lines 64-67). *Lefebvre* (col. 2, lines 1-3; Figs. 3-5) teaches that a plurality of light emitters (i.e., light emitting diodes) is supported by the housing and arranged in a plurality of rows.

### **Patentability of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

The Examiner contends (see pg. 4 of the Office Action) that:

*Jansa* discloses the claimed invention including drive circuit 19; coding conductors (electrical lead) connected to LED 1 and drive circuit, see, for example, figures 1-2, column 2, column 3, lines 1-41, column 4.

With respect to the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that *Jansa* fails to teach that the evaluation circuit 18 is integrated in the electronic circuit 1. Rather, *Jansa* discloses a device wherein the LED and its connection leads are separated from the evaluation circuit and the drive circuit. *Jansa* (col. 3, lines 61-63) states, “a separating line 9 (shown by dashed lines) runs along a connection element 2 (shown only schematically) which has six contact elements 3-8”. *Jansa* (col. 3, line 63 thru col. 4, line 2) states, “together with the contact elements 3-8 arranged inside the connection elements 2, which is designed as a male connector, the light-emitting diode 1 forms a physical unit which is arranged such that it can be mechanically separated from the remaining components along the separating line 9, which symbolizes a plug connection”. Thus,

*Jansa* teaches that separate elements, i.e. (a) the light emitting diode, and (b) the evaluation circuit (along with the remaining components), are connected to each other by a plug connector.

As shown in Fig. 6 of the present application, for example, Applicants' claimed evaluation circuit is integrated in the circuit arrangement. It is impossible for the circuit disclosed in *Jansa* to meet the limitation that "said code is detectable by an evaluation circuit which is integrated in the circuit arrangement," as recited in amended independent claim 1. In view of the foregoing, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over *Jansa* and, therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C §102 are requested, and a notice to this effect is in order.

#### **Patentability of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

*Jansa* fails to render the amended recitations of independent claim 1 obvious and, thus unpatentable. More specifically, it would not be obvious to integrate the evaluation circuit into the electronic circuit arrangement based on what is taught by *Jansa*. For example, *Jansa* (col. 3, line 63 thru col. 4 line 2) teaches that the LED 1 and the contact elements 3-8 form a physical unit that is mechanically separated from the remaining components, i.e. the evaluation circuit, by a plug connection 2. The separation of the physical unit formed by the LED and the contact elements from the evaluation circuit is emphasized by the separating line 9 shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 of *Jansa*. A person having the ordinary level of skill in the art would not be motivated to integrate the evaluation circuit into the electronic circuit arrangement based on what *Jansa* teaches, since *Jansa* (col. 1, line 59 thru col. 2, line 4) teaches that it is preferable to exclude components, i.e. a single series resistor, from within the LED because doing so would cause a change in the dimensions of the LED structure. Consequently, *Jansa* teaches away from integrating the evaluation circuit in the electronic circuit, as recited in amended claim 1.

Integration of the evaluation circuit in the electronic circuit arrangement advantageously eliminates the need to connect the evaluation circuit to the electronic circuit arrangement by connection elements, e.g. a plug element. Eliminating this connection requirement is particularly advantageous when the claimed circuit arrangement is for use in a vehicle, because a plug connection may be effected by mechanical vibrations (see, for example, pgs. 2-3, paragraph [0008] of the originally filed specification). Furthermore, the claimed electronic circuit arrangement can be supplied as a complete module, without the need for an external evaluation circuit. *Jansa* fails to teach or suggest such advantages associated with the invention recited in amended independent claim 1. Therefore, *Jansa* fails to render amended independent claim 1 obvious and unpatentable for at least these reasons.

As for dependent claims 14 and 15, the Examiner cites *Lefebvre* in an attempt to cure the shortcomings of *Jansa*. However, the combination of *Jansa* and *Lefebvre* fails to achieve the claimed invention, since *Lefebvre* also fails to teach or suggest that at least “said code is detectable by an evaluation circuit which is integrated in [a] circuit arrangement,” as recited in amended independent claim 1. *Lefebvre* teaches nothing more than a series of LED chips that are mounted on an elongated housing. Applicants therefore assert that independent claims 14 and 15 are also patentable over the cited references, when applied individually or in combination, based on their dependency on claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

### **Dependent claims**

In view of the patentability of independent claim 1, for the reasons presented above, each of dependent claims 2-16 and new dependent claims 17 and 18 is patentable therewith over the prior art. Moreover, each of these claims includes features which serve to even more clearly distinguish the invention over the applied references.

### **Conclusion**

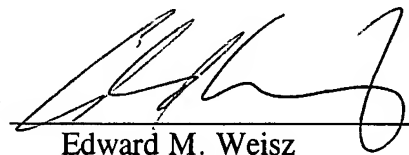
Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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